

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 143 (06-14)

June 2, 2014

Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 143 was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Special greetings were offered to the community members and guests. Local council members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, Ron Sollod, Vince Rabenau and Yvonne Baldwin. Absent council members were Bob Frisch, James B. Lyons III and Betty Byrne. The chair acknowledged guest Marla Posey-Moss, candidate for State Delegate in District 34A. Special thanks were offered to Captain Jonathan Krass, Southern Precinct Commander; Councilman Dion Guthrie; Lydia Brennan, Aide to the councilman; Fran Salbeck of Save the Pool Property; Sue Heselton, Carnival coordinator; Jim Thornton of the Board of Education, filling in for Bob Frisch; Delegate Glen Glass's representative; and County Executive David Craig's aide.

Candidates present for state and county elective offices were Marla Posey-Moss, for Delegate for District 34A; Dion Guthrie (incumbent) for County Council District A; Yvonne Baldwin, for County Council District A; James D. Thornton, for County Council President; Christopher Boardman, for County Council President; and Fred Mullis, Harford County School Board.

A motion was made by Doris Carey and seconded by Yvonne Baldwin that the May minutes be approved for adoption.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Captain Jonathan Krass, Southern Precinct Commander, shared the District Crime Report for May 2014. A comparison was made of the top three calls from 2013 to 2014. Alarms decreased in 2014 by 5. Suspicious incidents increased by 10, and thefts increased by 1. Captain Krass shared that there was a fatal accident on Joppa Farm Road earlier in the day. There are no active crime trends in the Joppa area at this time which is a great thing. There were a few minor incidents at the carnival this year. Crime is on the decrease in the Joppa area.

Fran Salbeck of Save the Pool - Update

Fran reported that the former Save the Pool Project has been renamed to Save the Property Project. She and 30 other community members attend a CIM presentation and felt that it was not handled well. She shared that a similar situation with plans to build a church in Joppa also exists on Philadelphia Road. Community members also have concerns dealing with traffic, parking, etc. in their neighborhoods.

Joppatowne Carnival Update

Sue Heselton stated that \$6,121 was cleared from the carnival, after all expenses. She mentioned that the carnival ran for 6 days instead of the normal 10 days. Some evenings the carnival shut down early due to low attendance. Sue said that the 7th Annual Edgewood/Joppatowne Independence Day Parade will be on July 5th, starting at 6 p.m. The parade will travel along Joppa Farm Road, from Shore Drive to Hinton Rd. After the parade, a concert will be held at Mariner Point Park with the Steel Pandemic Band playing Caribbean music. Sue Heselton stated that 15 applications had already been sent to the committee. More school bands and businesses will be participating in the parade.

Board of Education Update

James Thornton, a member of the school board filled in for school board member and local council member, Bob Frisch. Jim reported that there was an effort to move monies needed for repairs at Joppatowne High School to Havre de Grace H.S. Work done by School Board members were instrumental in making sure the needed funds stayed at Joppatowne H.S. Last year the Board had to make some painful decisions to cut the budget, due to years of underfunding. Those decisions required some students to pay to play in after-school athletics as well as included changes in transporting some students. Similar cost cuts are not a part of this year's budget.

County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie

Councilman Guthrie stated that he had communicated with Pastor Hickman concerning the church's plan with the pool property in Joppatowne. He stated that the pool will be taken off the property. Dion said he offered no help to the work that the church is doing. He also said that he did not vote for the budget that was passed by the council. The councilman said that an amendment was made to take \$5.9 million out of the budget and given to Havre de Grace. Dion and others on the council got that amendment squashed. He also spoke briefly about some revenue being lost from the Carnival in May. Usually the Carnival runs from 8 to 10 days; however, it was in Joppatowne for only 6 days in 2014. Dion discussed Bill 14-21 which he favors. (This bill would eliminate the County Council from serving on the Board of Appeals and require appeals of zoning

decisions made by the Hearing Examiner to go directly to the Maryland Circuit Court). His reasoning in part is that the County Council in Harford County is the only council where members sit on the Board of Appeals. He feels that as a representative of the community he would not be able to talk to his constituents on zoning issues because it seems as a conflict of interest. He feels that it would also be a conflict to advise the people he represents when a zoning issue comes up. However, a heated discussion ensued with the councilman by local council member Gloria Moon and former County Council member Susan Heselton. They felt that without the County Council sitting as Board of Appeal members, Harford County would be the only county in the State without a Board of Appeals.

Guest Speaker – Marla Posey-Moss

Ms. Marla Posey-Moss is running for State Delegate in District 34A. Posey-Moss stated that District 34A is rich with diversity, creativity and hard working people who deserve adequate representation in Annapolis. She said that she would be the delegate that brings constituents' voices to the table. She believes that Harford County is a game changer in Maryland politics and it is about time that we step up to the plate and fight for things that make a difference to everyday people. She also said that her goal in Annapolis is to work with other counties to bring more leverage to Harford County. She said she is willing to reach out to others and wants to get rid of cronyism. Moss said that she is invested in every area. She must serve the interest of the people who she will be beholden to. She asked the people to help support her candidacy.

Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community

Ron Sollod of the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company mentioned a new program that will make reflective numbers for homes so that they can be identified easily by the volunteer fire company. He also said that volunteers will also come to install alarms for those who need them. He suggested that the community can give Amber Wainwright a call about smoke alarms. Her number is 443-760-1270. He also shared information on the open house in September as well as outdoor cooking tips. He reminded everyone to have a safe summer.

Doris Carey, secretary of the local council and member of the Harford Community College Board of Trustees, stated that there are a lot of outstanding things happening at the college. The nursing and allied health professions building is up and soon will have all students in the health professions studying in the same building. The college is continuing to recruit new students. The budget has remained flat since 2008; however, the cost of running the college has continued to increase. Tuition increases were necessary.

Paula Mullis, chair of the local council, expressed hope that this has been a productive year for those who have attended the meeting. She wishes everyone a wonderful summer.

Before the meeting adjourned the community members were told that County Executive David Craig said that it is recommended that the last meeting of the council should be October 2014 and resume after the new administration takes office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Doris G. Carey, Secretary